25, WILTON PLACE.
London S.W.

June 22/79

My dear Gray

I received on Monday your new text book and am very much pleased with it I have not had time to read much of it for I have been very busy looking over for press Hooker's Coniferous Orders – but I have glanced through it and think it must become more than ever the standard text book from the thorough way in which you have gone into all parts of the subject – It had a narrow escape from being lost in the post the paper enveloping it was too thin and came all in rags – fortunately just enough remained for the postman to read the 25 Wilton Place – I hope no other copies were in the same predicament.

to some manuscript name. Again they distinguish Frenela Mirbel from Callitris Vent when Mirbel merely proposed the substitution of Frenela for Callitris because the latter name he thought too near according to Calytrix Labill.

I presume I shall this summer be chiefly taken up with the proofs which is a long business having to check all the references – After that I doubt much whether I shall feel up to undertaking Monocotyledons. However I feel that it is something to have gone through between us a complete Genera Plantarum Dicotyledonarum

Yours very sincerely
George Bentham

I have put into the printers hands the Nyctagineae Illecebraceae Amarantaceae and Chenopodiaceae for Genera Plantarum and the whole of the part (Monochlamydeae and Gymnospermae) is ready for printing excepting a little looking over of what each other has done and a few Balanophoreae and Coniferae to finish so that we shall now I hope steadily print a sheet a week which is as much as the printers will undertake

I am very much obliged to Engelmann for the trouble he has taken in correcting my mistakes about Arceuthobium I received yesterday a very interesting letter pointing out among other things where the bursting of the ripe fruit is recorded – observations scattered in various places which I had not hit upon I have never seen the fresh plant and our dried specimens though very numerous have no ripe fruits.

I have just come across another curious mistake of Parlatore's owing to the practice of copying synonyms without investigating them He gives Callitris Vent Nov. Gen p 10 excl. sp. Austral. and Callitris quadrivalvis Vent! Nov Gen. p. 10 when there is nothing of the kind in Ventenat's Nova Genera He there establishes Callitris specially as an Australian plant and gives no specific name He moreover takes the generic name from the special character of the Australian portion of the genus the ternary arrangement of the scales deriving it not very classically from καλλος and τρεις It is true that L. C. Richard refers the N. African Thuia articulata Vahl to Callitris quadrivalvis Vent. but that is either a mistake or only refers